

## WISCONSIN'S BUSINESS CLIMATE STATISTICS - 2006

### *Did you know?*

- Business taxes are lower in Wisconsin than those in 35 other states, according to a 2005 study by the **Federal Reserve Bank of Boston**, which measures more than 15 taxes that can affect corporate profits.
- The magazine **FierceBiotech** ranks Wisconsin as one of the top five regions in the world targeting biotech companies.
- According to the **U.S. Census Bureau**, Wisconsin has fallen to 15<sup>th</sup> in the total state tax burden per \$1,000 of personal income, down from 12<sup>th</sup> when Governor Doyle took office in 2003 and 6<sup>th</sup> in 2000.
- For each of the last three years Wisconsin increased business start-ups, registering more than 37,000 in 2005.
- A recent **Milken Institute** study found Wisconsin's cost of doing business is 4.6 percent lower than the national average, 30<sup>th</sup> lowest in nation.
- From January 1, 2003 until January 1, 2006, Wisconsin gained 170,000 jobs.
- Wisconsin ranks second nationally – trailing only Indiana – in percentage of total jobs that are manufacturing, with 18 percent.
- From May 2005 – May 2006, Wisconsin had the 16<sup>th</sup>-highest annual increase in manufacturing employment – 1,100 jobs.
- Wisconsin ranks #9 in the U.S. in workers per household, with 1.3.
- From 2000 to 2004 13,603 more people moved into Wisconsin than left the state, making it the only state in the upper Midwest to show a small gain in population from domestic migration. In comparison, according to the **U.S. Census Bureau**, Illinois had a net loss of more than 287,000 people and Michigan saw a net loss of nearly 114,000.
- According to preliminary unadjusted figures released by the **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics**, 172,200 new jobs have been created since Governor Doyle took office.
- In the publication **Expansion Management**, Wisconsin ranks among the highest in a number of Quality of Life factors including:
  - **Lowest Crime Rates – Top Ten**  
Fond du Lac (2), Wausau (4), La Crosse (5), Appleton (7), Oshkosh-Neenah (8) and Sheboygan (10)
  - **Best Public Schools – Top Ten**  
Sheboygan (5), Eau Claire (7), Madison (8)

- **Best Continuing Education Opportunities – Top Ten**  
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-Indiana-Wisconsin (2)
- **5-Star Quality of Life Metros**  
(Based on scores in nine Major categories including: affordable housing, good public schools, peace of mind, a balanced standard of living, broad opportunities for adult education, reasonable traffic and commuting, good commercial air access, a high adult education level and, from an employer's perspective, a young, reasonably-priced work force from which to find good employees.)  
**Appleton, Duluth, MN-WI, Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Sheboygan, Wausau**

## ***Education***

- UW-Madison ranks among the top in the nation's public universities in Research & Development (R&D) spending.
- In 2005, Wisconsin high school seniors topped the nation in ACT scores for the 11<sup>th</sup> straight year.

## ***International Trade***

- Wisconsin exports increased by nearly 17.5 percent to a record \$14.9 billion in 2005, as compared to a 10.6 percent national increase. Since Governor Doyle took office in 2003, Wisconsin exports have increased by approximately 40 percent.
- Technology exports from Wisconsin jumped by 34 percent in 2005, for a total of \$3.5 billion. Tech products account for 23 percent of total exports from Wisconsin.

## ***Rankings***

- Wisconsin was one of only seven states to make the **Corporation for Enterprise Development** Honor Roll, scoring:
  - ✓ A for economic performance
  - ✓ B for business vitality
  - ✓ B for developmental capacity
- In the *Inc. Magazine* "Top Cities for Doing Business in America" list for 2005, Wisconsin has two cities in the Top 15. No other Midwest state has any.
  - ✓ Green Bay, #1 (medium)
  - ✓ Madison, #2 (medium)
  - ✓ La Crosse, #17 (small)
- *Entrepreneur Magazine's* 2005 study, "Hot Cities for Entrepreneurs" ranks two Wisconsin cities as tops:
  - ✓ Green Bay, #5 (small)
  - ✓ Madison, #6 (medium)
- La Crosse, Madison and Oshkosh rank No. 16, No. 20 and No. 45, respectively, on the *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine's first list of "50 Smart Places to Live," in 2006.

## ***Business Tax Advantages***

- Property tax exemptions for manufacturing machinery and equipment, computers and computer equipment; inventories, and pollution-control equipment; tax credits for energy used in manufacturing and for R & D
- 60-percent capital gains exclusion

- No inheritance and gift taxes
- No unitary tax on foreign-owned corporations
- Single-sales factor tax treatment adopted
- Sales tax exemption for energy used in manufacturing